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CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1916

When the third fire within ten weeks broke out in Marlinton at three o'clock in the morning, it was immediately seen that a fire bug was at work in the town. Thanks to the alertness of the volunteer fighting forces, the third fire, that at Superintendent Williams' house, was reached by the fire companies and put out before any overwhelming damage was done. Then it was plain to be seen that it was the work of an incendiary. The house was occupied at the time by the lady of the house. As she was sleeping a man had entered the building and passed by her door and gone into a front upstairs room and hung bed clothes over the windows and saturated cloths with oil, and set fire to the room in several places. Things were only tolerable in this town after that, and three days later, the house of Lawyer McClintic was entered in the night-time, and cloth soaked in oil prepared, and the purpose of firing the house circumvented by reason of the fact that the fire-bug had flooded the house with electric light, entirely oblivious to the fact that this would rouse the household, as it did. When this occurred, the feelings of the town people can be better imagined than described.

"The man who is setting these fires certainly must be an insane person," observed Mrs. Malaprop.

"Yes," replied Mr. Malaprop, "and if he is detected, this place is going to prove very unhealthy for him."

When the fire-bug was discovered Mr. McClintic's he was at a table under a bright light playing with a great pile of matches, placing them at regular intervals on the table, like a child, oblivious as to time and place. He had cunning enough however to disappear through an open window.

When the word went through the town the next morning a kind of dumb panic seized us all. It was like the cry of murder in the market place. Each turned upon his neighbor anxious eyes that asked: "Art thou the man?"

Here we had built a town of fine homes in which the in last few years we had just beginning to find itself and to feel like an old settled community. The householders knew that if they set up all night on guard that they would see nothing, and yet if they went to sleep they might be burned in their beds. They felt the need of the old time night watch whose duty it was to pass by your house and call out, "One o'clock and all is well!"

It speedily developed that there was some one here who had a habit of prowling over the town in the after part of the night and who looked into windows and come to men's homes and left without knocking or making known his wants.

Tales of other towns where men had become deranged on the subject of fire and had defied detection for a long time were numerous.

But developments were pretty rapid that morning. When the fire-bug got away the first thing to do was to send to Hinton for a blood-hound, or fire-dog, as he has since been called. Then the same infirmity of the mind which had been our danger became our safety. It so affected one of the business men of the town, who had not been suspected of insanity, that he went into the air, and demanded that he be arrested and locked up before the dog could arrive. With the inconsistency of a crazy man he made the most unreasonable accusations of other men, said that he was a Pinkerton detective, and that he had been working on the case for years, and that if he was locked up before the dog came that he could disclose the whole plot.

He succeeded in getting himself locked up and then it was remembered that he had a strong hereditary taint and that he had been restless, uneasy, and sleepless for some time, and that he was over-interested in the fires that had occurred lately, and was a member of the fire company.

The town got easy in its mind almost at once and the coming of the blood-hound was looked forward to with renewed interest. When the trained animal and his keeper got off the train, there was an immense throng to greet him, but much to the disappointment of the crowd, a line of armed men kept the crowd away from the hunt. The hound was one of the finest animals physically that has ever been seen here, and strange to say that as good looking as he was, he knew his business perfectly. The trail was about eighteen hours old, but the oil may have made it as easy to follow as that of a person whose favorite perfume is crushed peanut or extract of onion. Anyway he cir-

led in the approved fashion and led the keeper to the man in jail and laid down at his feet and indicated as strongly as a dog could that here was the man that he had been told to seek. The prisoner expressed it as his abiding belief that the dog was a damned liar, but the police dog did not resent his remarks in the least.

It is hard to describe the relief that came upon the town when this particular man was locked up, for the people felt that here was a deranged man whose thoughts ran on fires, and that it was not likely that there was any other person in town similarly affected and that the danger was passed.

One of the vagaries of the prisoner was to ask Mr. McClintic to defend him as counsel, and Mr. Williams and Mr. Humes, two of the fires sufferers, to go on his bail. There is a law that insures every accused person a speedy trial, but another law of the Virginia, is very specific, that an insane man shall never be tried for a crime, if insane when the case is called. The procedure is to continue the case and hold the person accused in confinement until his mind is restored and then to subject him to trial. The prisoner expressed himself to the sheriff as being as happy as a bee in a tar-barrel, and as the rest of the town is breathing easily, there is a kind of a universal satisfaction about the whole situation.

It has been suggested that perhaps the county papers were disqualified on account of interest to discuss the question of establishing a high school in the town of Marlinton for Edray District. We do not take that view of it and even if we did, there is no rule against us asking our friends for what we want.

It is to the interest of the town and to the district, equally, that the high school be established, and as a matter of comity, Huntersville district has almost as much interest in it as Edray district.

By one of the most outrageous gerrymanders ever perpetrated, Huntersville district was made one of the poorest districts in the state of West Virginia. Still the districts have endured so long that there has sprung up a sort of civic pride in the respective districts which prevents them being changed. It seems to us sometimes that the pride of the district here in Pocahontas is stonger than the pride of county and state.

When the University of Virginia first became the center of the school system of Virginia nearly a hundred years ago, this county responded by establishing what is now the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, and Greenbank. Under the new regime the county is doing again what it did then only on a much larger scale, but not nearly so large when the population and wealth of the county is taken into consideration.

It is manifestly impossible for Huntersville to establish such a school, and the new county seat of the county falls heir to the old county seat's emoluments and liabilities.

If the law had not been changed placing a very low limit on the amount that can be levied by the school board, the election called for 8th day of April would not be necessary. But we do not object to the election for that is the best way to determine the sentiment of the district. It is very true that a school board is not going to go contrary to public sentiment if it knows itself, and in requiring an election for this levy, the best method of finding out the sentiment of the district is used. It is a good law.

But for the change in the law, the present school building could have been erected without an election.

If the district outside of the

town of Marlinton will take the same view of school matters that it did when the brick building was first built here, then they will vote for the high school.

That was one of the strangest things that ever occurred in a public matter. The people of Marlinton needed a good school building so bad that they were ready to make any sacrifice that was called for to get it. They figured that they could not count on the farmers for it. So they offered to take the burden of an independent district and got a bill passed by the legislature establishing the independent school district of Marlinton. Under the constitution it was necessary to submit it to a vote. The plan was to get the independent district and to bond it to build a school. The district very promptly voted down the proposition. They did not want the town to secede. Then they built the kind of building that the town wanted and cheerfully paid for it practically out of one year's levy. The town people never dreamed of asking the district for a \$12,000 school house, but the district took it in its own hands and presented the town with the building. Since then there never has been a town which was on such cordial terms of friendship with the rural communities.

In the coming election, it rests with the farmers to say whether they will follow their fellow country men of the Levels district, and of the Greenbank district, in establishing a district high school. On one side is the universal belief in giving the young folks good educational facilities, and the proper pride of knowing that nothing is too good for the Edray district, and on the other side, of course, is the dread of higher taxation.

But the increase in the tax ticket does not amount to a row of pins compared to the expense of sending a child to a distant town to a boarding school or college.

The small farmer with a growing family ought to be for this school as the chances are that he will not feel able to send his children away to school.

If Edray district will be kind enough to agree to build this high school at the county seat, the act will be greatly appreciated, and the district will find that it is money well spent.

Sutherland's candidacy did not take like wild fire as many of his friends had hoped and believed that it would. On the contrary it does bog down amazingly. It is an uncertain thing, this question of popularity. It is like poker beat you. One day you hold possible for you to fill a bucket with water with the ocean to draw from. It may be that he comes too late to get his name in the pot. Anyway it looks like it was good by Sutherland.

The G O P should send a messenger to C. I. Roosevelt with instructions to find out what he is doing and tell him to don't.

There is going to be a call for a large number of able bodied persons to enlist in the army and navy at an early date.

Do not get the impression that Congress is forcing military service on you. That question was settled when the act or Congress was adopted declaring that all able citizens between the ages of eighteen and forty-five constitute the "national forces" and are liable to perform military service. This was an act passed April 22, 1898, one day after the war with Spain began.

In a recent speech Senator Chilton had occasion to refer to an early law in Virginia making it unlawful to kill an Indian on Sunday.

We believe this to be the earliest game law of the colony.

Last week Arthur E. English, of Frederick, Maryland, was killed by his wife after a violent quarrel. The deceased was well known in this county where he used to come to hunt some twenty-odd years ago. He was a lawyer by profession and one of his hunting friends having been indicted for a trivial offense by the grand jury, he came here voluntarily to defend him. This was in Judge Campbell's time. He startled the court by asking for a bill of particulars in a misdemeanor case. Mr. English was the son of the late Dr. Thomas Dunn English, who once lived in Logan county and who wrote the song, "Ben Bolt." The reports state that English was killed after having threatened his wife with a revolver. The quarrel arose over the treatment of their children. The coronor exonerated the wife for her deed.

He was an old grey-headed, pompous person, With spats and everything that's fine and swell; When on the street, he stepped upon a marble, Gyrate round a bit and almost fell; And as he circled he looked at a store-front, And there he saw Abe Lilly's printed head; He walked into the place in indignation, And to the merchant that he found therein he said:

Chorus: Why do you keep Abe Lilly's picture in your window? Don't you know it is enough to make me scream; I do not like his smug and smiling features; He looks just like the cat that stole the cream.

I am one of this town's most substantial voters; I have sojourned in this village all my life, I had hoped to end my days in peace and quiet, And the last thing that I want is party strife; But when I think of what he tried to do to Hatfield, And how he worked to put my party in a hole, I can hardly keep myself from sinful cursing; Gol darn a peasant politician's soul.

Chorus: Why do you keep Abe Lilly's picture in your window, etc. And try to ram him down my party's throat; He will test my factional allegiance; He shall never, never have my precious vote; You can take it in your pipe and smoke it, I will never stand for him, a nominee, And you boys can't say I did not warn you, If you find me kicking at the single tree.

Chorus: Why do you keep Abe Lilly's picture in your window, etc.

Public Sale

OF ATTRACTIVE FARM AND EQUIPMENT In order to close the partnership transactions of Messrs. Pancake and Sprout in the following described property, the undersigned will offer for sale at public auction on the premises.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1916 at 10 o'clock a. m.

First. All that certain tract of land, together with the improvements and appurtenances belonging thereto situated in Beverly Manor District, Augusta County, Virginia, near the Parkersburg Pike, on Middle River and Edison's Run, containing 300 acres.

This farm is well improved with large brick dwelling house, bank barn, horse stable, granary and other necessary buildings; is well adapted to general farming, stock raising and fruit, and is one of the best watered farms in the county.

It is well adapted to grain, well set to blue grass and grazes forty two-year old cattle. Fifteen acres of elevated land is set to apple orchard in full bearing—trees in good condition; forty acres in wheat, besides thirty acres for hay eight acres in crimson clover, and eighteen acres already plowed for corn—all growing crops to go to the purchaser with the farm.

Second. We will offer at the same time and place the following personal property:

4 heavy draft horses, young, fine workers and in good condition; 40 two-year old cattle, a 4-horse wagon, a two-horse wagon, 2 Oliver Chilled iron beamed plows complete, 1 buggy rake, 2 mowers, 2 spring-tooth harrows, 1 drag, 1 drag, 1 disc cutaway harrow, 1 Success manure spreader, 1 Deering binder, 1 Superior drill, 1 hillside plow, 2 line tooth cultivators, 1 double riding cultivator, 1 set of hay ladders, 1 float, 1 grain cradle, mowing scythes, 2 sets of wheel harness complete, 2 sets of lead harness complete, 1 lot of loose hay, 1 lot of loose hay, 1 lot of fodder, about 300 bbls. of corn, 1 lot of tools, etc.

TERMS OF SALE

On the farm, one-fourth cash, and the balance of purchase money in six equal annual payments, evidenced by the bonds of the purchaser, payable in one, two, three, four, five and six years, respectively, from day of sale, with interest at six percent, payable annually, secured by a cotemporan-

LIMKO Latest and Most Popular Cola Drink ASK FOR IT Bottled Exclusively By Marlinton Bottling Works T. J. Mason, Proprietor Soft Drinks of all Kinds, Gas, Phosphates Soda Fountain Supplies.

The Falling Spring Normal School This school will begin on Monday, April 10th, and continue three months. Board will be \$12 and \$12.50 per month. Tuition \$9 per term. We stand on our merits, realizing that a large percentage of our students can compete in the public school work, with those from any school. In the series of examinations, 1915, the Falling Spring Normal School, among the schools of forty-six counties of W. Va., holds first place. We invite you who desire to attend school, to join us. No one will do more for you than we. "Sports" are not wanted. Just those who wish to come for business are appreciated. For further information, write me at Renick, W. Va. ALEX. THOMPSON

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Farm for Sale Five miles from Linnwood postoffice, 170 acres, mostly in grass, 2 good dwelling houses, good barns and all outbuildings; the finest water in the county; this raising farm must be seen to appreciate its value. Price right. S. D. BEAL Mingo, W. Va.

Save your Rags, Paper, Rubber, etc. IT IS WORTH MONEY We are now prepared to handle your rags, waste paper, rubber, old iron, scrap metal and other junk matter. We will call for it and pay the highest price the market affords. Pocahontas Junk Co. Marlinton, W. Va.

Virginia Farmer Restored To Health By Vinol Atlee, Va. - I was weak, run-down, no appetite, my blood was poor, I could not sleep nights and was rapidly losing flesh, but I am a farmer and had to work. Medicines had failed to help me until I took Vinol. After taking three bottles my appetite is fine, I sleep well, my blood is good and I am well again. -ORLANDO W. BORKEY. Vinol, our delicious cod liver and iron tonic without oil, is guaranteed to overcome weak, run-down conditions, chronic coughs, colds and bronchitis. Marlinton Drug Store

COUNTY COURT Terms: First Tuesday of January and March and fourth Tuesday of June and September. ATTORNEYS: M. LOCKRIDGE, Attorney-at-Law, Huntersville, W. Va. Prompt and careful attention given to all legal work. A. P. EDGAR, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Courts: Pocahontas and adjoining counties and the Supreme Court of Appeals.

H. S. RUCKER, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties, and in the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia. F. RAYMOND HILL, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties, and in the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

Andrew Price T. S. McNeel PRICE & McNEEL Attorneys-at-Law Marlinton, W. Va. Prompt and careful attention given to all legal work. Messrs. Osenton & Horan will appear with us in any case in which their services are desired. W. A. BRATTON, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Prompt and careful attention given to all legal business.

M. C. McCLINTIC, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and adjoining counties and in the Supreme Court of Appeals. I T WARD Attorney at Law Marlinton, W. Va. DR. ERNEST B. HILL, Dentist, Marlinton, W. Va. by strict attention to business I hope to gain your practice.

A. O. BAXTER, Civil Engineer and Surveyor, Marlinton, W. Va. First National Bank Building. Rail and tram roads specialties. A. calls by mail or phone given prompt attention. A. C. BARLOW Veterinarian and Dentist Onoto, W. Va. DR. F. C. NICKELL VETERINARY SURGEON Cass, W. Va. Graduate of U. S. College of Veterinary Medicine. Farm, breeders of good Percheron Stallions and horses.

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